

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14044 311902Z POSS DUPE
ACTION H-03

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R 311552Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9596
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14044

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM UK EI
SUBJECT: CODEL EILBERG

REF: (A) STATE 219568, (B) BELFAST 170 AND 171

1. ACCORDING TO FCO SOURCE (MCCRORY, REP OF IRELAND DEPT WHO ALSO HANDLES NI AFFAIRS), THERE ARE NO RPT NO ADMINISTRATIVE OR OTHER SANCTIONS IMPOSED SOLELY AS RESULT OF A PRISONER ENGAGING IN A HUNGER STRIKE. HOWEVER, PRISON GOVERNORS HAVE AUTHORITY TO PENALIZE PRISONERS WHO BREAK PRISON RULES (INCLUDING HUNGER STRIKERS IF GOVERNOR SO DETERMINES) BY REDUCING AMOUNT OF "REMISSION TIME" CREDITED TO THE PRISONER (I.E., IN EFFECT POSTPONING HIS DATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE OR RELEASE). CONVERSELY, GOVERNORS ALSO HAVE POWER TO INCREASE REMISSION TIME FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, AS HAS BEEN DONE RECENTLY BY ADVANCING RELEASE DATES FOR SEVERAL PRISONERS WHO HELPED AUTHORITIES CLEAN UP THE DEBRIS OF THE BLANKET PRISONERS.

2. OFFICIALS HERE ARE UNINFORMED WHETHER GALLAGHER WILL BE PENALIZED REMISSION TIME IN THIS CASE. THEY STATE NIO HAS NO AUTHORITY TO INTERVENE IN MATTER THAT IS WITHIN JURISDICTION OF PRISON GOVERNORS. IN ADDITION,
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FCO SOURCE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER NIO WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSURE EILBERG IN CONTEXT OF HMG POLICY OUTLINED ABOVE THAT NO "REPRISALS" WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST GALLAGHER.

3. FCO SOURCE GENTLY POINTED OUT THAT GALLAGHER'S FAMILY IS NOW CLAIMING THAT CONGRESSMAN EILBERG'S

INTERVENTION WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ENDING GALLAGHER'S HUNGER STRIKE. FCO RE-EMPHASIZED POINT REPORTED BELFAST 171 THAT GALLAGHER HAD MADE THE DECISION HIMSELF. OUR FCO SOURCE OBSERVED THAT THE NIO IN BELFAST HAD BEEN ASKED TO HANDLE THE EILBERG CABLE, AND IT WAS WHITEHALL' UNDERSTANDING THAT MINISTER OF STATE CONCANNON MIGHT TOUCH ON THIS ISSUE IN A MEETING WITH EILBERG AUG 30, BUT THAT HMG WOULD NOT MAKE ANY WRITTEN REPLY.

4. GALLAGHER WAS ARRESTED, CHARGED, AND CONVICTED FOR HIS PART IN THE 1975 BOMBING OF A LEGION HALL IN BELFAST ACCORDING TO BRITISH, HE WAS ONE OF TWO PERSONS WHO CARRIED EXPLOSIVES INTO THE HALL AND THEN ORDERED OUT ALL THE OCCUPANTS. HIS 1976 CONVICTION WAS BASED ON HIS CONFESSION AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS IN PRISON. MORE EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND INFO IS BEING REPORTED BY CONGEN BELFAST.

STREATOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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